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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Novena Notes



Love Given, Love Received

I do not fully understand the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity: *One God, Three Persons & Three Persons, One God*. But I do not have to fully understand. I accept this teaching because Jesus was the one who talked about the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as three distinct persons but declared there was only one God.

Jesus' teaching about the Trinity is not surprising. It is all about Love and Relationship. Love cannot love itself. Love must love another and Love must be loved back. Love given and Love received.

God (as one person) cannot love himself. God (as one person) can only love another. God can give love to the other Person, and the other Person receives, responds and returns the Love to the Giver. Jesus said that the Father loves the Son and the Son loves the Father. The Holy Spirit is the expression of this love given and received.

If God is not a Trinity, God is not love. For love requires three things: a lover, a beloved, and a relationship between them.

Peter Kreeft (2016). *"Fundamentals of the Faith: Essays in Christian Apologetics"*,

The Trinity is also about Unity. Not just unity in Persons. But unity in Purpose. The Father creates and commissions, the Son executes and redeems, and the Holy Spirit sanctifies and makes holy the whole of creation.

It was the whole Trinity, which at the beginning of creation said, "Let us make man". It was the whole Trinity again, which at the beginning of the Gospel seemed to say, "Let us save man".

J.C. Ryle (2015). *"Bible commentary - The gospel of Matthew"*.

The problem with us is that we have our own version of the trinity. Not of God but of "money, pleasure and fame". There are other combinations of world values that we are intent on pursuing. We believe that if we attain this modern version of the trinity, we will be happy and content: *"If only I have"*. But we are not happy. Neither are we content with what we have already attained. We want more. We want bigger and better things.

We also love a different trinity: "Me, myself and I". We are becoming increasingly individualistic and self-absorbed - my wants, my desires, my convenience, my choices, etc. But again, we are not happy or content when we just focus on ourselves.

Jesus taught and showed us that only Love and Relationships matter. Jesus wants us to build relationships and communities where every action is animated and motivated by Love. His message was clear: God loves each one of us. So love God and love one another.

Just thinking out aloud - Our trinity could be Faith, Family and Friends - where Love is given to God and to all and Love is received from God and all. True Happiness. True Joy. True Peace. True contentment.

Reflection by Ros.

Readings & responses for the week

The Most Holy Trinity

Sunday, 31 May	Ex 34:4-6,8-9; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18 To you glory and praise for evermore.
Monday, 1 June St Justin, Martyrs	2 Pet 1:2-7; Mk 12:1-12 My God, in you I trust.
Tuesday, 2 June SS. Marcellinus & Peter, Martyrs	2 Pet 3: 11-15, 17-18; Mk 12: 13-17 O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.
Wednesday, 3 June SS. Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs	2 Tim: 1:1-3, 6-12; Mk 12: 18-27 To you, O Lord, I lift up my eyes.
Thursday, 4 June	2 Tim 2:8-15; Mk 12:28-34 Lord, make me know your ways.
Friday, 5 June St Boniface, Bishop & Martyr	2 Tim 3: 10-17; Mk 12:35-37 The lovers of your law have great peace.
Saturday, 6 June St Norbert, Bishop	2 Tim 4: 1-8; Mk 12:38-44 My lips will tell of your justice, O Lord.

NOVENA DEVOTIONS ON SATURDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 4.00pm, 5.30pm

2.00pm (Mandarin)

MASS ON WEEKDAYS

12:15pm, 6.30pm

9.00am, 6.30pm Public Holiday

(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

MASS ON SATURDAY

7.00am, 6.30pm (Sunset)

MASS ON SUNDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 5.30pm
(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

No booking is required. There will not be standing room allowed in the main church.

RECEPTION OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 8.00pm

Lunch Hour 11.45am to 12.45pm

Saturday 7.30am to 8.00pm

Sunday 8.30am to 1.30pm & 4.30pm to 7.00pm

Closed on Public Holiday

GIFTSHOP OPERATING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
10.30am to 6.30pm

Lunch Hour 12.15pm to 12.45pm

Saturday 8.30am to 6.30pm

Sunday 9.00am to 1.30pm

Closed on Thursday and Public Holiday

YOUTH CAMP

NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

RMT
REDEMPTORIST
MISSION TEAM

**COME
STOP
SEEK
RECEIVE**

**COME AND
ENCOUNTER ME
IN A NEW WAY!**

YOUTH CAMP

**10-12
JUNE
2026**

**AGES
13-18!**

(NON STAY-IN)

SCAN ME
**YOU ARE INVITED
TO JOIN US!**

SS. Charles Lwanga & Companions,

Martyrs

One of 22 Ugandan martyrs, Saint Charles Lwanga is the patron of youth and Catholic action in most of tropical Africa. He protected his fellow pages, aged 13 to 30, from the immoral demands of the Bagandan ruler, King Mwanga II, and encouraged and instructed them in the Catholic faith during their imprisonment for refusing the ruler's demands. Imprisoned with his friends, Charles' courage and belief in God inspired them to remain chaste and faithful. For his own unwillingness to submit to the immoral acts and his efforts to safeguard the faith of his friends, Charles was burned to death at Namugongo on June 3, 1886, by Mwanga's order. When Pope Paul VI canonized these 22 martyrs on October 18, 1964, he also made reference to the Anglican pages martyred for the same reason.

CHILDREN MASS

NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

Come with your children
and let's build the
future generation
of Marian devotees

**CHILDREN'S
FORMATION
AND MASS**

DATE: Sunday, 7th June 2026
TIME: 2pm to 2.15pm - Formation
2.15pm - Children's Mass
VENUE: Novena Church

For more information, please refer to
<https://novenachurch.com/childrens-ministry>

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

THURS; 10.30AM -12PM

PASTORAL BLOCK

BERNARD HEANEY ROOM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

Eucharistic Adoration

“
The Lord God took
the man and put
him in the
**Garden
of Eden**
to work it and take
care of it.”

(Genesis 2:15)

5th June
2026, Friday
7.30pm
Main Church

PUBLIC HOLIDAY MASS

VESAK DAY IN LIEU

1 JUNE MON

9AM & 6.30PM

NO 12.15PM MASS